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MANCHESTER UNION-LEADER (NH)
25 July 1985

Ex-CIA Aide's Scenario Right Out of Bond Movies

Fearful Age of Terrorism

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FRANKLIN — The balance of 1985 and projection for 1986 shows every indication of being a violent period in our history, one in which more acts of terrorism such as airjackings can be expected.

That was the somber forecast Max Hugel, a former CIA official, made at a meeting of Rotarians and members of other civic groups Tuesday night at a local restaurant.

"The clock in George Orwell's words is already striking 13," said Hugel, who served as special assistant to CIA Director William Casey and as the agency's chief of clandestine operations during the first Reagan administration.

Although governments are fearful of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of terrorists or radicals such as Libya's leader Col. Muammar Khadafy, what is far more likely to happen is that these individuals will obtain chemical and biological weaponry and threaten to use them, Hugel said.

One such incident, in Australia, has already occurred, Hugel added. A threat was made to release a virus which causes the dreaded foot and mouth disease in animals.

Hugel said he is concerned about the "immense ease which materials for (chemical and biological) weapons can be obtained over the counter."

To halt the increase in terrorist activity, Hugel said this country needs to improve and

expand its intelligence gathering capability.

"To make an active move against terrorism we must be able to infiltrate the groups (responsible for it). It will take a long time, but it will never be stopped unless we can get in the inside," he said.

Hugel called the CIA the country's "first line of defense."

If the intelligence field isn't supported adequately, "our leaders won't be informed properly. And if they are not informed properly, they will make mistakes,"

Contrary to popular belief that terrorism is an activity confined to Northern Ireland, Italy and other countries overseas, terrorism has been conducted "on a huge scale" in the United States for a number of years, Hugel stated.

It has taken many forms, and Cuban and Soviet intelligence groups are often working in the background, in control, but out of reach of law enforcement and governmental agencies.

The bombings and threats against the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. in California, aimed at preventing the introduction of nuclear power, was cited by Hugel as examples of terrorism at home, along with the kidnapping of Patty Hearst in 1974.

In its "purest sense," terrorism aims at achieving psychological ends, Hugel added.

"When (former President Jimmy) Carter was paralyzed

by the Iran hostage situation, it was clear proof that strategic reality could be achieved by terrorism," he said.

Hugel called terrorism "an act of war." He said in certain cases terrorism is designed to humiliate and embarrass the United States and to show the world "that we are a paper tiger."

And every time a successful act of terrorism is perpetrated against this country, Hugel said, "the ante goes up."